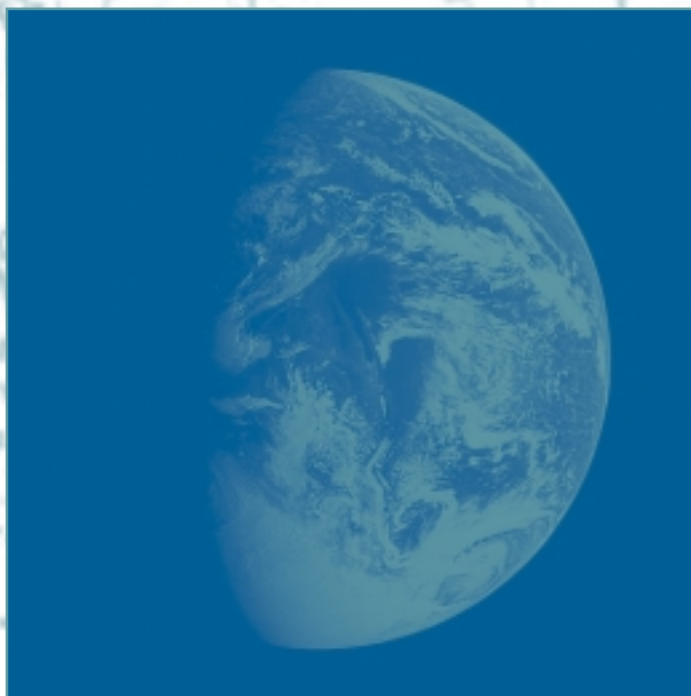


1970

30 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

2000

REMEMBER THE PAST

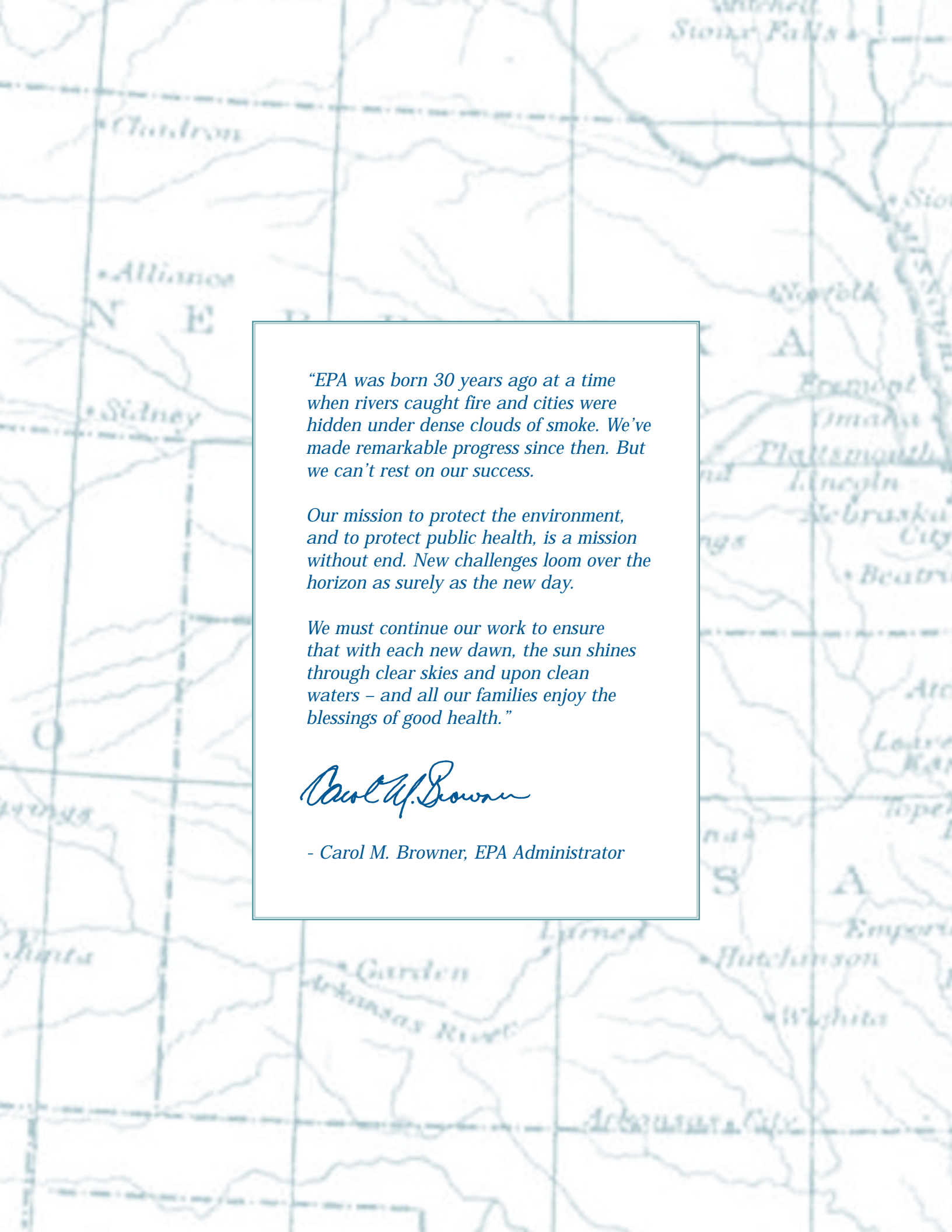


PROTECT THE FUTURE



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
EPA-903-R-99-005

IOWA | KANSAS | MISSOURI | NEBRASKA



“EPA was born 30 years ago at a time when rivers caught fire and cities were hidden under dense clouds of smoke. We’ve made remarkable progress since then. But we can’t rest on our success.

Our mission to protect the environment, and to protect public health, is a mission without end. New challenges loom over the horizon as surely as the new day.

We must continue our work to ensure that with each new dawn, the sun shines through clear skies and upon clean waters – and all our families enjoy the blessings of good health.”

Carol M. Browner

- Carol M. Browner, EPA Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 N. 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

OFFICE OF
THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Here in EPA Region 7, we're a dynamic and changing organization that never stops looking for better ways to protect the environment and the health of the 12 million people who live in the region. We're involved... and we're evolving. It's wonderful to be a part of that. I came to EPA as regional administrator in 1994 because I knew this would be a great time to be at EPA. A lot of things have changed since then, but that hasn't. Now we've entered a new century – we're doing great things – and it's still a great time to be at EPA.

Almost 70 percent of the 286,000 square miles of Region 7 is farmland. But Region 7 is also industrial, with 56 percent of its 12 million people living in metropolitan areas such as St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines and Wichita. That provides us a full range of environmental challenges, from well water and pesticides to toxic chemicals and incineration.

Of late, people have been asking me to predict the future of environmental protection in Region 7. I'm not much on fortune telling. I have no doubt, though, that we will keep the best of what we have learned in the last century. One of the best lessons I'm sure will continue into this century is working closely with our partners: state and local environmental agencies, tribal governments, business, industry, agriculture and citizen groups. Together, we help each other identify needs, achieve common goals, and make the best use of shared resources. In the process, we all work to protect the environment.

As for predicting the future, I'll leave that to you. You can see in the pages of this report where we have been. There are many successes, from the restoration of dioxin-contaminated Times Beach to a new Region 7 Headquarters building on an old, abandoned Brownfields site. You can see where we are now, working together to determine our environmental future. But that future depends on you, our partners: what you want, what you will do, and what you will teach your children. When you know these things, perhaps you can predict our environmental future. One thing I know for sure, it will still be a great time to be at EPA.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Grams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Grams, P.E.
Regional Administrator